

Honoring 79 years of the Four Chaplains Sacrafice





LARRY WITTMAYER DEPT1ST-VICE COMMANDER

the bail/jail incident.

Our Department Leadership Team meeting was held on December 15th at headquarters and will be again on January 26th

On December 18th, the Department Leadership Team participated in a Wreaths Across America laying of wreaths at the Willamette National Cemetery; it was well attended.

District 8 held their meeting and Christmas party at post 150 on the

We anxiously await the National endeavor for guidance on a Veterans Suicide Program in the meantime. Local initiatives are in place.

Please remember that February is National Americanism month, and this Department is presently proceeding with Oratorical contests. The department contest will be on March 12th at Lebanon post 150.

On a more somber note, the National Director of Americanism, Jill Druskis, is coming to the end of her career with the National office of the American Legion and will be retiring soon.

Membership is presently at 79.88% to date. We need 77 to reach the goal of 80% we are number three in the region. Please keep up the excellent work.

Remember please do your Buddy Checks. This is one of the most important ways we can keep in contact with our members.

Americanism Month



CORY BROCKMANN DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER

As members, proudly we

Month!

Greetings

Legionnaires,

February is Americanism

On De-

Minnville.

Well done,

including

ascribe and commit "to foster and

perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism." And, in

doing so, we further our opportunities to strengthen our foundation within our hometowns, state, and nation.

Americanism is our third pillar and an extremely important one.

While all four pillars create the foundation of service to which we support veterans and America, this third pillar - Americanism - provides us the widest, largest opportunity to grow a strong America.

Why is that?

Because patriotism, freedoms, justice, education, health, legal immigration, citizenship, and protecting our flag, to name a few, are not solely a benefit or service of just veterans. It encompasses all of us - from the young to the young-at-heart, male and female, veterans and non-veterans. Thus, supporting the programs that fall under the Americanism pillar really does provide us with the opportunity to make a difference and grow our support and strengthen our foundation for a strong America.

With that, I extend a heartfelt shoutout to our Americanism commission and the committee members who

work to deliver and support our programs and make a significant difference here in Oregon. We cannot do it without you - thank you!

Oregon ranked in the Top25! Okay, I'm talking membership now.

Our department membership numbers continue to have our placement hovering in the high-teens to low-20's in the national ranking. That is a reflection of your efforts, so thank you to everyone for your work to make a difference!

Now, we can do better. I have seen a lot of email traffic from the Membership and Post Activities Commission (M&PA) sent out to districts and posts dating back to last July, offering to help by conducting membership training and support membership

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

CORY BROCKMANN events, but
DEPT 2ND-VICE COMMANDER I've not seen much

email traffic in return or in scheduled events. We still can make the goal, be it your post, district, or for department, but we must be proactive. It takes initial coordination at the postlevel to establish membership efforts. I encourage you to develop a framework to contact members for renewal and, in doing so, reach out to the M&PA commission on how they can further support the effort.

Lastly, I continue to review the commissions and committees roster and take notice of a large number of vacancies present. There are not a few; there are a lot; and, I refuse to lay the blame on the pandemic. I am grateful for each one of you that supports our programs, and especially those that provide leadership by serving as a committee member. Quite simply, we need you, and I thank you.

While our programs are designed to serve, support, and strengthen our veterans and communities, we cannot be successful with so many openings. Your department leadership will continue to seek ways to improve the status of the vacancies. However, we do need your connections with members in your posts and your knowledge of their interests. If you do know of someone interested in any position, please have them contact the commission or committee chair or me directly, and we can discuss in detail the positions of interest.

Thank you for your continued selfless service and sacrifice to our nation.



Department Officers

Commander Don Weber Imed. Past Cmdr Steve Adams 1st Vice Cmdr Larry Wittmayer 2nd Vice Cmdr Cory Brockmann Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips Kevin Owens **NECman** Alt NECman Gene Hellickson Finance Officer **Bob Huff** Chaplain Steve Shollenberg Historian Dick Winders Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson Service Officer Ed Van Dyke Veterans Service Officer Jody Marsh Phyllis York Sgt-At-Arms Mike Morris Asst Sgt-At-Arms Asst Sgt-At-Arms Ward Allen

Need to Know Dates

Februry

Americanism Month Looking forward to Oratorical

March

Community Service Legion Birthday St Patricks Day Boys State Selection

April

Children & Youth Scouting Activities Boys State

Let's talk approved budget. We have processes for when those items that are budgeted or our duties are not performed that we must reduce the budget line for that function. As our new budget started on October 1, 2021, I have reviewed the Oregon Legionnaire for October, November, December 2021, and now January 2022. I remain alarmed at the number of district commanders and chairs that have not submitted articles for the Legionnaire. I was pleasantly surprised that more articles were written for the January publication, but still, a lot is not being submitted. District Commanders, Chairs, this is your means of communicating to your Districts and the Legion community information on your programs and what is going on in your programs, in your districts, upcoming meetings, and events. Remember, all Officers, District Commanders, Chairs, we will be holding our Department Budget Meeting in February. You are required to submit your budget requests for your function; if not submitting Legionnaire Articles, Book of Reports, not communicating, do you need a budget if nothing is going on? There is a lot going on in this Department.

Remember, it is tax time now. As I asked all the District Commanders during our Fall DEC, when making their Post visitations

and Post PDC, Bob Huff
assess - Department Finance Officer

ment, to verify that their Posts have filed their 990 Taxes. There are no exceptions. All our Posts must file their taxes each year. If the Post has not filed in three years, the IRS will revoke their EIN numbers and lose their 501 c19 status. This is part of the District Commanders' assessment of each Post in their District and the responsibility of each Post to file their taxes

As we put our proposed 2022-2023 Budget together next month, looking at lower membership will mean reducing expenses in our other operations, our programs. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization.

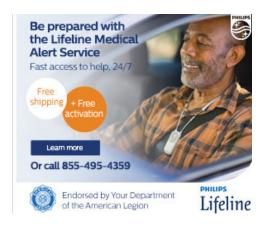
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PDC, Bob Huff We have DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER found that making Buddy Checks which is doing the right thing for our members, is providing positive outcomes in renewing our members. We have other income, but membership supports our programs, supports our ability to support legislature on Veterans issues, supporting Veterans and their families and caregivers.

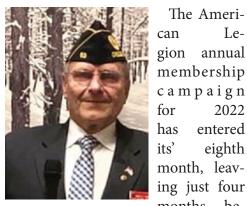
Remember, The Oregon American Legion Foundation is a 501@3. Contributions are tax-deductible, funds are used for our programs. There is a lot of information and grant requests on our Web Site. Let's have a great year, face to face, where safe; we have plenty of opportunities for a great vear.





This pilot dominates headlines by crossing the Atlantic in the first solo flight across the ocean.

- A. Amelia Earhart
- B. Howard Hughes, Jr
- C. George Wilkins
- D. Charles Lindbergh



months be-PNC, PDC, CHARLIE SCHMIDT fore the PR CHAIRMAN 2 0 2 3

The Ameri-

membership

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annual

campaign begins. The American Legion 2022 membership renewal campaign, began July 1, 2021, to allow members substantial time to renew their 2022 memberships prior to January 1, 2022.

Membership in The American Legion is based on a calendar year from January 1 to December 31. When a member pays their dues, they are paid up for that membership year. Renewal notices are sent out by National during the months of July, October, January, March, and May. When a member renews, the member is removed from future renewal notices for that year. The sooner members renew, the less costly it is for our national organization to send subsequent renewal notices.

There are times when a member pays their dues, but they still receive

a renewal notice. If dues are paid directly to the Post, it may take a little longer for national to receive the renewal, and the member may receive another renewal notice. If this occurs, please check with your Post Membership Chairman if your dues were

received by the Post. The American Legion goal is to have every member renewed for the new year by January 1 of each year.

Our American Legion memberships expire on December 31 of the paid year shown on our membership card. If dues are not paid by January 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. February 1, the membership is suspended until renewed. If you haven't yet renewed your annual membership, please consider doing so this month before another renewal notice is mailed.

Our individual memberships collectively not only strengthen our Post and District but our American Legion voice on Capitol Hill in our advocacy for all veterans, their families, and our United States of America. That's what The American Legion has been doing for nearly 103-years.

There are three options available to renew your membership: 1) online at www.legion.org, 2) mailing a check to your Post, or 3) bringing your dues to a Post meeting. Your Post Membership Chairman can provide answers to your membership questions and information on becoming a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) member. Lend your voice to The American Legion by renewing your membership.





PDC, KEVIN OWENS NECMAN

As we begin a New Year it is time to for prepare upcomthe ing Legion programs, Boy's state, Baseball, Jim Willis Law Enforcement

Career Camp, and any other

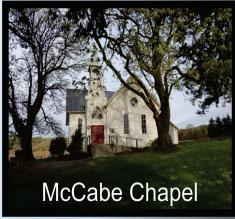
programs your Post might participate in the next several months. The Department of Oregon is made up of members who have many different interests and to attract new members we need to find the things that make them want to join our ranks. Too often we all become set in our ways, me included, sometimes do not embrace change that could benefit the things we do in our Post, district, and Department.

The value we bring our Leaders, and the value new ideas bring is a mixture like no other. Just think how our membership could grow, our programs too big for us to handle. What a great problem to have. Far too often we hear the negative things happening and not the great things being done around a department.

We need to hear from our Leaders, our Posts and Districts on those great things. It starts with each of us to make this happen. If you have a problem, have some ideas to fix that problem when you ask for help. Not all things can be fixed in that moment, but might take time, be patience, ask the right people use our Department Officers, District Commanders, Past Department Commanders, Commission and Committee Chairmen and those in your Post.

The knowledge and assistance are





The American Legion Department of Oregon Four Chaplains Memorial Service at McCabe Chapel

Let us remember and honor these four brave WWII Chaplains, and never let their memories die.

Service will be at the McCabe Chapel 13150 McCabe Chapel Rd McMinnville, Oregon 97128 FEBRUARY 6, 2022

12:00 noon: Documentary Movie

<u>The Four Chaplains: Sacrifice at Sea</u>

1:15 Four Chaplains Memorial Service

Contact Information: Chaplain Steven D. Shollenburg, 971-241-8925 Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips, 503-685-5009

out there, and all problems can be fixed before they become bigger ones. Please use the resources you all have available; you might be surprised what can be accomplished. The last thing we all need to work on is being kinder to each other.

Rumors and gossip are what kills or-

ganizations. We all served our nation, and we continue to serve our nation in The American Legion. Let's not for get the men that laid the framework to what we have become, one for all and all for one. Thank you all for what you continue to do each day and thank you for what we can do in the future together.

Editors Notes

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The Voices of Oregon Veterans
The Oregon Legionnaire

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Business and general offices:
30450 SW Parkway Ave
PO Box 1730
Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730
Phone (503) 685-5006

adjutant@orlegion.org www.orlegion.org

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The Oregon Legionnaire Committee

Editor Publisher S. Flynn Phillips S. Flynn Phillips

Chairman

Members Daniel Burks

David Applegate Iaun Palacios

orlegionnaire@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

February Americanism Month
Oratorical Coming your way

15 Preidents' Day (Nat'l

Closed)

27-2 Washington Conference

March Community Service Month

2-4 Dept Officer School

12 District 1 Meeting 15-17 TAL Birthday

17 St Parick's Day

April Children & Youth

1-3 DEC Burns

2 Good Friday (Nat'l Closed)

23 District 4 Caucus



LOU NEUBECKER
DISTRICT 1 COMMANDER

Christmas season. Our next District Meeting will be at T. Les Galloway Post 0068 in Clats-

Your Dis-

you all had a

GREAT Ha-

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cers

kanie on March 12th, starting at 1130 with the luncheon, and the meetings begin at 1 PM.

As most of you know, we held our District meeting in Aloha on December 11th. We had a great turnout, with 11 of the 15 Posts in the District attending. We need to get our Post information into the Adjutant so they can be recorded into our meeting minutes.

Department held the Winter DEC on January 8th. It was a virtual and inperson DEC. In case you didn't know, someone had COVID at the in-person meeting, and several members caught it. We, District One, challenged the rest of the Districts to donate \$500 to the Veterans and Children Fund.



PLEASE STAY SAFE and, most of all, **BE CAREFUL** out there.

Deadline

for the **March** issue of the

Oregon Legionnaire is **February 5th, 2021**





JAMES MORIARTY DISTRICT 7 COMMANDER

of veterans.

Buddy checks.

work that you put in was certainly appreciated. We visited homes in Colton, Estacada, and Eagle Creek. We collected dues, received some transfers, and made a lot of phone calls. I drove National Vice Commander James Higuera to the Colton area, and we were able to talk with family members

Again, thank you for helping with the Buddy Checks. We will be con-

need more help from the Post 74 of-

Post 74 members standing tall for the Department and the National Vice Commander. I also included a photo of NVC Jim Higuera accepting a Post 74 100th Anniversary Bullet Pen last

weekend at the Winter DEC.

Hello all,

Thank you to all that assisted District 7 with Buddy the Checks/ Membership last week in Colton, Esand tacada, Eagle Creek areas. It was a success, and the hard























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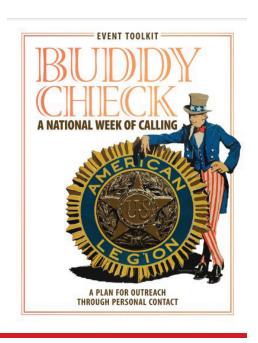
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James Moriarty Thanks to all District 7 Commander that assisted District 7 with the Buddy Checks/ Membership last week in Gresham, Troutdale, Happy Valley, and Portland. It was a success, and the hard work that you put in was certainly appreciated. We visited houses in Gresham, Portland, Troutdale, and Happy Valley. We collected several dues and spoke with some veterans and their families, emphasizing these Buddy checks' importance.

Dan did a great job getting the word out last week about the upcoming Gresham Post 30 and its newsletter. George, thank you for getting us into the Gresham VFW to hang our hats for a few hours.

I attached some photographs of the Buddy checks for Post 30.

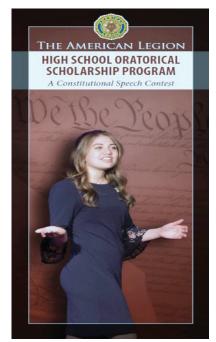
Essayons





The Oratori-MARIA TYE cal Commit-ORATORICAL CHAIR tee hopes that everyone had a Merry Christmas and wishes everyone a Blessed New Year. It has been for many of us a difficult year, but with the grace of God we made it. We are looking forward to having a successful Oratorical 2021-2022 program for the Department of Oregon! Now with the year 2021 ending, we can focus on our Posts having their contests in January and District Contests in February and our Department contest on March 12, 2022, at the Santiam Post 51, 480 S. Main Street in Lebanon this year. It's wonderful that we are providing more practice time for the contestants. It's all about the children Afterall!

One of the Christian traditions throughout the world is the Epiphany usually celebrated January 6 or the second week of January. Which according to our Christian tradition is when the 3 Magi saw baby Jesus, knelt in reverence, and gifted him precious gifts of Frankincense, Myrrh, and gold. My hope is that we provide our precious gifts to the Children. We need to see our Department of Oregon as providing our time and precious best efforts to Children throughout many years







Boys State

IAN GERSTAL BOYS STATE CHAIR

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State.

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs.

Legion Posts select high school juniors to attend the program. In most cases, individual expenses are paid by a sponsoring post, a local business or another community-based organization.

Boys State programs currently exist in all Legion departments in the United States except Hawaii. As separate corporations, Boys State programs vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level.

For more information:

Boys State & Boys Nation



Please review https://www.legion.org/boysnation/stateeligibility to find a program and contact information in your state.

Boys Nation

Two representatives from each of the 49 Boys States represent their state at Boys Nation in Washington, where the young leaders receive an education on the structure and function of federal government.

The first Boys Nation – then called Boys Forum of National Government – convened at American University in Washington in August 1946. The 1946 American Legion National Convention adopted the event as an official youth activity. Three years later, it became American Legion Boys Nation.

At the event, each delegate acts as a senator from his Boys State. The young lawmakers caucus at the beginning of the session, then organize into committees and conduct hearings on bills submitted by program delegates.

Senators learn the proper method of

handling bills, according to U.S. Sen ate rules. Participation in the political process is emphasized throughout the week, including organization of party conventions and nominating and electing a president and vice president.

The week of government training also includes lectures, forums and visits to federal agencies, national shrines, institutions, memorials and historical sites. On Capitol Hill, Boys Nation senators meet with elected officials from their home states.

Since Boys Nation began in 1946, a number of its graduates have been elected to public office, including presidents, congressmen, state governors and state legislators. Many others have been inspired to work for the campaigns of individuals seeking public office.

The American Legion has certain qualifications for prospective Boys State citizens. Following are the recommended guidelines employed by most Boys State programs:

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Students in high school are considered. Previous participants of a Boys State competition are not allowed to attend a second session. Only those who illustrate leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service in their schools and community should be considered. Merit and ability are the basis for evaluation during the actual citizens selection process.

Boys State competitions are in compliance with federal handicap laws.



Most programs require a medical/parental consent certificate signed by a parent and registered doctor.

The selection process often differs in Legion departments.

The ideal method is for schools to recommend lists of eligible candidates to local Legion posts. The post would then conduct interviews and select their representative(s) for the program.

https://orlegion.org/programs/boysstate/

Contact; Boys State Chairman; Ian Gerstel 503-538-9151 and at iangerstel69@gmail.com

Dates: June 12 – 18, 2022



PNC, CHARLES SCHMIDT PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

As Legionnaires, we never know when we might be asked to discuss a topic of interest make a presentation relative The Ameri-Legion. can

It does happen. Like a good Scout, we too must Be Prepared. Did you know The American Legion supports legal immigration but strongly opposes amnesty and tax-funded benefits for those who have entered the country illegally? Were you aware that The American Legion's ability to influence decision-makers in Washington, help veterans get their VA benefits, and serve as valuable mentors to young people depends on membership? Well, these are two examples of current program positions The American Legion advocates for through our National Security and Membership programs. "Positions and Programs of The American Legion" is a guide to

the organization's stances on current issues of concern, as well as a reference to programs of national interest. The guide is updated annually and is written so that its various sections can be quickly blended into brief or extended remarks for presentations to various audiences, from Legion Family gatherings to media. When speaking on multiple topics, you can quickly shift subjects with transitional phrases such as: "another topic we should consider is ..."; "we are also interested in ..."; "of course, we shouldn't forget ..."; or "in addition to these pressing veterans' issues, The American Legion continues to provide support to" To supplement the material in this guide you can add your own personal anecdotes to make remarks more interesting to the audience. Or mention the outstanding accomplishments of people who are present. You might even localize topics by referring, for example, to a nearby VA healthcare facility or a community American Legion Riders event. The Positions and Programs of The American Legion Guide are available for all of us at www.orlegion.org/media/publications. Carry a copy so you will be prepared to share our organization's positions and programs with those who are not familiar with our American Legion. Our organization has been serving veterans, their families, and our nation since 1919. We have a lot of information and history to share. Source: *Positions and Programs of The American Legion Guide*.







LARRY WITTMAYER
SCOUTING CHAIR

This article on Scouting brings us closer to the date of the Eagle Scout of the Year contest. Applications will be evaluated after

receiving them no later than March 1st.

If your posts are receiving information about the national bankruptcy settlement and you have questions feel free to contact me at 503-970-4944.

This month on February 8th is the

birthday of the Boy Scouts of America. If your Posts are interested in chartering a Scout Unit, don't hesitate toget in touch with Larry Wittmayer at 503-970-4944.

Cascade Pacific Council

Cascade Pacific Council nominations for silver Beaver are due.

The new scouting QuickStart guide is now available. https://cpcbsa.org/tools/scouting-quickstart-guide/.

A merit badge series will be given at the Evergreen Aviation Museum on 2/26.

Oregon Trail Council

2/5 Cub Leader Training

Blue Mountain Council

2/18 to 20 Klondike Derby

2/26 Order of The Arrow lodge banquet

Mountain West Council

2/4-6 Klondike and Cub Scout snow Capades



2/19 Eagle Scout recognition night





THE OREGON AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION FUNRAISING RAFFLE

Help support our American Legion Veteran and Youth programs by purchasing raffle tickets!

Raffle Prize: "Legacy & Vision" The American Legion

100th Anniversary lithograph print, wood-framed and matted with the American Legion Centennial Silver Dollar

Ticket Price: \$10 each (Limited ticket availability.)

Contact: Department Headquarters or members of

the TOALF committee





PDC, BOB HUFF VA&R CHAIRPERSON

Our Commission and Department Service Officers (DSO) have met virtually, planning our budget requirements, plan for next year, and changes for our

next budget year. The way we operated and budgeted two, three years ago has all changed. We can support more veterans and their families virtually than in-person and veterans seeking assistance traveling to Portland. Not only with our Legion Service Officers, but our County Service Officers are also finding that they are able to process more support for the veteran's community virtually. Face to face is still taking place. More and more is being performed virtually at all levels, though. An opinion, virtual is going to be the future with several oper-

VA & R

ations. As virtual hearings have started up again, our DSO's are supporting veterans in their hearings. Virtual meetings have proven to allow more access and quicker response to some of our Veterans' claims and appeals and have filled in a void with our rural Veterans population. Our Department Veterans Service Officers continue doing a great job supporting our Veterans during a very difficult time and have adjusted to new ways in supporting our veterans. The Commission also has oversight of our Department VAVS Program, which has representatives at our VA Facilities in Oregon and many hours of volunteer service, contributions and has filled in a void at our VA's during COVID 19 in all areas. It continues to support with new requirements for support, weekly, some more depending on the area. With VAVS Volunteer opportunities opening, the VA will not allow

anyone to fill volunteer positions without being complete on their COVID shots by Federal direction. The VAVS arm also supports the National Cemetery Administration (NCS) with activity at our National Cemeteries. We have additional responsibility at the VA SORCC and Eagle Point National Cemetery as we have more face-toface contact, Employment and Education, and VSO activity at these facilities. The Commission also represents our Department along with the Veterans Employment, Education and Homelessness (VE&E) Commission at Veterans Stand-Downs, Benefit and Employment and Education Events, Woman Veterans Events, Mobilization, and Yellow Ribbon Events in The Department of Oregon. We held our first in-person event in December and continue to participate in virtual meetings and some face-to-face meetings to support some of this effort. We will be supporting our second in-person event on Saturday, February 5, 22, at VA SORCC. If you hear of events

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VETERANS EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION and HOMELESSNESS



PDC, Bob Huff VEE & H Chairperson

The Veterans
Employment,
Education,
and Homelessness
Commission
is working
with the VA
SORCC to
hold its second in-person Employment Event on

Saturday, February 5, 2022. The first event we held on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at the VA SORCC in White City was a total success. With the requirement for critical clinical needs to support the Veteran population and the success of the first event, the second in-person event has been plan-

ned. As a critical need exists at all our VA's, more events are in the works. As events are planned, and flyers are put together for the events, we will place them in this Legionnaire and circulate them through our Department email chain. Each event is held complying with all Mask, Social Distancing, and Oregon and VA rules for the number of participants; all rules are followed for everyone's safety. All employment opportunities for these scheduled events are for critical jobs at VA facilities. We have worked with our partners, DVOP's and Easter Seals, which worked with Veterans that needed help with their Resumes or USA Jobs along with County Service Officers assisting Veterans with questions or requiring claims help and representatives from Southern Oregon University (SOU) and Rogue Community College (RCC) providing help with information on education programs. We will have our partners in the Veterans Homeless Program present for any assistance or questions. All our partners participated. With a shortage of candidates, we are having to work out of the box finding new ways to support. Our goal is Veterans and Spouse employment and supporting where the needs of the VA to support our Veterans needs are met. Yes, it is a new way of doing business. We are looking for new ways to support Pillar One. We still need some face-to-face Veteran Stand Downs. We are gathering equipment, clothing and have met with the VA Directors for a venue. We are getting closer with in-person events starting.

VA & R

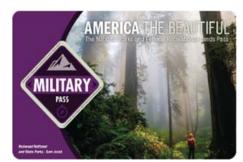
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PDC, Bob Huff that VA&R and VA&R Chairperson VE&E Commission can support, please email huffe4@aol.com or (541) 826-4916 with your contact information, and I will contact you. If your District is holding its meeting and would like more information or support with our Pillar I Veterans activities, don't hesitate to get in touch with me, and we will be happy to support you.

Thank you



Submitted by: Cory Brockmann Dept 2nd Vice Commander



Free Access to Federally Owned Recreational Lands

Legionnaires, did you know you can gain *free access* to federally owned recreational lands, including National Parks, National Forests, National Grasslands, and more? It's true!

Beginning back on November 11, 2020, the America the Beautiful - National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands

Military Pass (pictured here) was expanded from current US military (U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force and National Guard), to also include veterans, dependents, and Gold Star families.

The Military Pass covers entrance to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service sites that charge Entrance Fees, and covers Standard Amenity Fees at Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation sites, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites.

The Military Pass may be obtained in person at no cost at Federal recreation sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees. And, for those wanting their name printed on the card, it may be acquired online for a minor fee. Documentation is required to acquire the free pass.

Details on eligibility and acquiring the no cost Military Pass may be found at: https://store.usgs.gov/MilitaryPass

A nationwide listing of recreational sites that will issue the card on site may be found at: https://store.usgs.gov/s3fs-public/PassIssuanceList.pdf

Are you moving?							
CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM							
Please Update My Address in mylegion.org							
Name:							
New Address:							
City/State/Zip:							
Effective Date:							
PhoneNumber:							
Email Address:							
Please Email to: Office@orlegion.org							
Or Mail to: The Department of Oregon							
Attn: Adjutant							
P.O. Box 1730							
Wilsonville, OR 97070-1730							









With great sorrow, I am writing this article about Willy Williams. He was one of our most valued and beloved members. He passed away at his home on January 18, 2022. Willy was a member of The Sons of The American Legion for 28 years and an integral part of the Detachment of Oregon for more than 20 years. Affectionately known as the 'Old Buzzard,' he held many positions through all levels of the organization. Some of his most significant positions were being the Detachment Commander in 2006-2008, Alternate NEC from 2008-2009, and the NEC from 2009-2021. Not content with just keeping his knowledge in Oregon, Willy branched out & was in charge of the entire Western Region Rendezvous finances.

This was a personal loss to me, as Willy was my mentor, and I watched him mentor many of the past Detachment Commanders. He was always willing to do what was best for the organization, and I will forever be grate-



ful for the guidance he gave me over the past ten-plus years.

To illustrate just how selfless Willy was, he would say ANYTIME someone needed help with an event, and he would be there. It didn't matter if it was for his Squadron or for a Squadron that was 200 miles away. He would always show up to help. I remember talking with Willy and telling him how my mother was stressed out about an upcoming event, as she couldn't find male servers. Willy asked when it was, I gave him the date, and he told me he would be there to help. He came all the way from La Pine to help serve a meal for the Auxiliary in Milwaukie. I could go on with a bunch of stories

about when Willy volun teered to help other Posts, Units, or Squadrons with something; just know that this is a huge loss for the Sons of The American Legion and our Legion family.

I will be reading a resolution at our next DEC to change the name of our SAL Member of the Year award to the "Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Oregon, Willy Williams Member of the Year" award.

I want to lift up and keep his wife, PDP, Ginny Williams, in our thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

NEC, Marc Chaney









A Word About Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Over Five Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966 with two primary goals: to provide Legion families with low-cost insurance protection, and to provide a source of revenue to participating Legion Departments.

The Trust has been so successful in its over fifty years that today over 500,000 Legionnaires in 50 participating Departments are enrolled in this unique program.

Also, in the same period of time, almost \$1 billion dollars in claim benefits have been paid to Legionnaires and their families through the LIT; and over \$100 million in allocations have been paid to participating Legion Departments. The first Trust insurance plan to be offered was the Hospital Income Protection plan, a program designed to pay fixed dollar amounts for periods of hospital confinement. Over the years, other insurance coverage offered included: Cancer, Accidental Death, Critical Illness, Disability Income, Emergency Assistance, Long Term Care, Medicare Supplement, Discount Cards, Dental, Whole Life, Auto, Homeowners, Identity Theft, and Home Health Care.

Since its creation, AGIA has worked closely with the Trust to develop insurance programs especially designed for Department members and their families. We are proud to serve you through the Trust and invite your inquiries and suggestions on any aspect of our activities.

More Than Yea

Years Of Service To The Legion Family



Pictured above (l. to r.): Steve Ikerd, Heather Schmitt, and Marty Menard. Not pictured: Reginald 'Shep' Shepherd and Cory Brockmann

A great example of The American Legion's motto "Veterans Strengthening America" in action was recently demonstrated in a collaborative effort between Hillsboro Elks Lodge #1862 and Aloha Post #104.

Reginald 'Shep' Shepherd, a member of both Aloha #104 and Hillsboro Elks #1862, reached out to Cory Brockmann, Department 2nd Vice Com-

Veterans Strengthening America By Aloha #104

mander, inquiring on veteran needs for food goods, noting efforts recently accomplished between him, Oregon Military Support Network (OMSN) and Aloha #104. This new collaboration provided an estimated 1,850 lbs. of canned and dry goods to Veterans Village and other veteran transitional housing managed by Do Good, a

nonprofit organization dedicated to serving homeless veterans.

"Elks #1862 were recipients of 37 50-gal barrels of donated food goods from the holiday season," stated Shepherd, "and all of it is being put into the hands where it is needed." Given the volume of donated goods, Shepherd reached out to fellow Legionnaire, Brockmann, and approximately seven

full barrels were made available to help veterans.

Steve Ikerd, program manager for Do Good, stated, "I can't thank you enough for reaching out to us (Veterans Village)." Ikerd gratefully acknowledged the efforts of our veterans and members of both Hillsboro Elks #1862 and Aloha Post #104 in helping to make a difference in the lives of veterans.

Also assisting in the handling and transfer of all the food goods was Marty Menard, member of both Aloha #104 and Hillsboro Elks #1862, who was instrumental in the two-day event, along with Steve Ikerd, program manager, and Heather Schmitt, caseworker, both of Do Good.

Veterans really do strengthen America!





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<u>True Compass Designs</u> is a digital development company that has been in business for more than 17 years. Certified in 11 different Adobe programs, Mick Bird of Camas, Wash., builds websites for clients while working from the comfort of his home. **Mick is The American Legion Department's Web Designer**.

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LARRY HILL South County DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER veterans put up flags for Pearl Harbor Day *CARISA CEGAVSKE* Senior Staff Writer The News-Review Dec 8, 2021 The last member of the American Legion Post 123 in Myrtle Creek to have served in World War II, Ed Huntley, died this summer. Michael Gill of Myrtle Creek helps take down flags that were set up earlier in the day on Tuesday in Myrtle Creek to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day.

Huntley and the others from South County who served in that war may be gone, but they are not forgotten. A small band of veterans from that post was out early Tuesday morning, putting up flags to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day. Tuesday was the 80th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii that drew America into the war. Roy Brogden led a small group of American Legion members putting up 200 flags in Myrtle Creek, Tri City and Canyonville Tuesday morning.

The group took the flags down again before sunset. The 3-foot by 5-foot flags go up on 13 veteran-related holidays each year. On each of the holidays, the flags cover bridges and are placed outside of businesses that donate \$25. Half the money goes to pay for flags and poles, while the rest goes toward the American Legion's costs for maintenance and insurance on its building.

Brogden said the post has had difficulty attracting younger members and volunteers to do this work. Jeff Johnson, the owner of MSK True Value Hardware Store in Myrtle Creek, helped out by asking employees to put up some of the flags. "I've got to really thank Jeff Johnson for stepping up," Brogden said. Brogden, a Vietnamera veteran who was drafted in 1963

Continued on page 19

The Mews-Review Post 123 Pearl Harbor Day



Roy Brogden of Myrtle Creek helps take down flags that were set up earlier in the day on Tuesday in Myrtle Creek to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day.

Michael Sullivan/News-Review Photos





Roy Brogden and Michael Gill Both of Myrtle Creek helps take down flags that were set up earlier in the day on Tuesday in Myrtle Creek to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day. Michael Sullivan/News-Review Photos



Carisa Cegavske

Senior Reporter

Carisa Cegavske is the senior reporter for The News-Review. She can be reached at ccegavske@nrtoday.com or 541-957-4213. Follow her on Twitter @carisa_cegavske



Post 123 Pearl Harbor Day

Continued from page 18

LARRY HILL and made a 32DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER year career for himself in the Army, said the American Legion hasn't attracted many veterans from wars later than the Vietnam War.

The Post's membership was 79 last year, and it's down to 59 this year. Just four of the Post's members planned to go out on Tuesday to set up flags. Many of the post's members couldn't join in. "They're older and they just can't do it," Brogden said. He hopes younger veterans will be inspired to participate next time. Carisa Cegavske Senior Reporter Carisa Cegavske is the senior reporter for The News-Review. She can be reached at ccegavske@nrtoday. com or 541-957-4213. Follow her on Twitter @carisa_cegavske

Interesting things to make



you say Hmmm....

Most Disney characters

wear gloves to keep animation simple

Walt Disney might have been the first to put gloves on his characters, as seen in 1929's The Opry House starring Mickey Mouse. In addition to being easier to animate, there's another reason Disney opted for gloves: "We didn't want him to have mouse hands because he was supposed to be more human,"

The News-Keview

Post 123 Commander Sutherlin



Gwen Best of Southerlin poses for a photograph at the Veterans Memorial in Central Park o Tuesday. A previous service member of the Marine Corps, Air National Guard and Army National Guard. Best was elected Douglas County Veterans Forum President in 2020. Michael Sullivan/The News Review

LARRY HILL Douglas DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER County Veterans Forum President Gwen Best joined the U.S. Marines three or four weeks after graduating from high school in Gardnerville, Nevada, in 1971. She was bored working as a secretary to an engineer who wouldn't let her do any drafting.

"So I wrote a letter to a recruiter." Two days later, the recruiter called and asked her to come in the following day. "In those days, believe it or not, women had to have character references to get in," she said. "I had to take him around town and see five different people who testified to him in writing that I was of good moral character," she said. Women also had

to score higher on the tests than the men to get in, she said.

"It was kind of crazy," she said. Despite facing double standards from the get-go, joining the military turned into the beginning of a long and rewarding career, first in the Marines and later in the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. In retirement, she has spent much of her time serving her community, and last year, she was elected president of the Veterans Forum, succeeding former president Larry Hill.

In the Marines, Best was assigned to run a fixed communications center. It was 1971, and a computer at that

Continued on page 20

The Mews-Review

Post 123 Commander Sutherlin

Continued from page 19

filled center LARRY HILL DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER a room. The communications center took paper tapes, with holes punched in them to indicate messages, and fitted the tapes into a machine. The machine read the messages and sent them all over the world.

"That machine, as big as it was, only had 5K of memory. It's hilarious when you think of it now," she said. She loved the job. "But I got married and started having babies and in those days you couldn't stay in," she said.

After spending some time at home, she would go on to serve in the Air National Guard and later the Army National Guard. She eventually became a transportation first sergeant with 186 people working for her. "It was fun and interesting, and we always had challenges, but we always overcame them," she said.

After 26 years of service, the physical demands became too much and she decided to retire from the military in 2002. But life didn't get boring after that. Best took a job as Nevada's deputy director of homeland security. It was shortly after the tragic events of the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York City, and the state's homeland security unit was brand new.

"It was very interesting times. It was

very stressful worrying about all this stuff," she said. Best said there never was a serious terror threat or event in the state of Nevada during her tenure. But the unit identified potential targets, surveyed them and decided what it would do if it were to receive actionable intelligence.

"We were trying to outwit people who we didn't even know who they were, where they were or what they were planning," she said. A lot of the job, though, involved reassuring Nevadans and tourists that it was safe to visit the state's large venues in Las Vegas and Reno.

The message was that homeland security didn't expect anything to happen, but if it did, they were ready, she said.

After she'd worked in that job for five years, Best decided she wanted a major career change. "I thought you know I'm tired of looking for bad guys. That's all you do in the military is train to figure out what the bad guy's going to do and what can you do to protect yourself or figure out how to outdo them. And then the same thing in homeland security," she said.

So she took a job as a financial adviser, working for three different organizations over a period of 10 years, moving to Eugene and then to Suther-

lin. She found it rewarding to help people plan financially to meet their own goals. Best has retired from that job as well but doesn't seem to have slowed down a bit.

Currently, she's the commander of the Sutherlin unit of the American Legion, and last year, she was elected president of the Veterans Forum. She said she hopes to help bring the forum into the electronic age, reach more veterans, and bring more guest speakers to the forum meetings.

When she's not volunteering for veterans, Best can often be found volunteering with the Sutherlin Lions. Among the group's activities are filling baskets for seniors or putting food in the backpacks of needy kids. She's also a senior warden at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Sutherlin. And she's the Dolly Parton Imagination Library coordinator for C. Giles Hunt Memorial Public Library in Sutherlin.

As a kid, she said, she loved libraries and there were volunteers who helped make that possible. "I thought, somebody did all that for me, and so I need to do it for the generation following." she said. That desire to serve has informed much of Best's life, and she recommends it. "I think everybody owes the country something," she said. Not everyone's suited for the military, but they could join the Peace Corps or volunteer closer to home to provide public service. "It just gives you a different perspective on things, and you appreciate things a lot more," she said.

Reporter Carisa Cegavske can be reached at ccegavske@nrtoday.com or 541-957-4213.



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Fast access to help, 24/7





We are mailing Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) on February 23rd.

Quick reminder about EA+:

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- Medical Evacuation to get you to a more appropriate hospital.
- Transportation Home after hospitalization.
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- Return of Vehicle if it is stranded due to your emergency.
- And More!

Product may not be available in all states and may not mail all your members. If you want a more detailed description of this product, visitwww.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus.

Stay tuned from new product launches
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Plans!!!

- *** The next mailing is HospitalHELP in March.
- *** Only a few days left to submit your Department's entry for the Wigle Membership Innovation Initiative! If you need more information, reach out to Howard Bender.

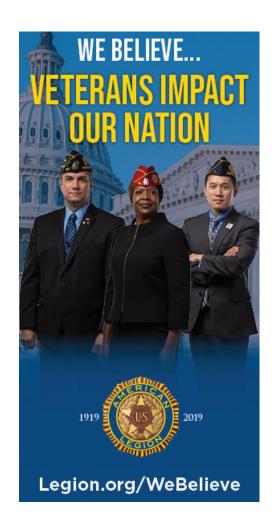




Here's what it will look like to most people who receive it.

AND AS ALWAYS, DON'T FORGET:

Questions? Contact Howard Bender 800-445-3269 hbender@agia.com





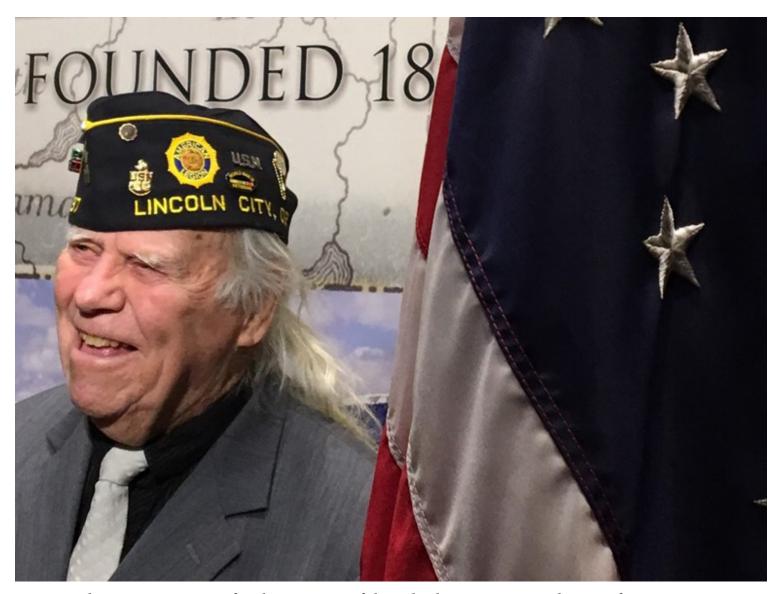
Great Blood Drive on Saturday, 8 Jan. 45 Donors





Dedication Ceremony by the Lincoln City Parks & Recreation (LCP&R) for the Naming of the city-owned plaza, The Ed Johann Veterans Plaza, located at N.W. 18th St and Hwy 101,

be named for former Lincoln City Councilor and resident Ed Johann Veterans Plaza



Dedication Ceremony for the Naming of the Ed Johann Veterans Plaza set for January 27 [Lincoln City, OR January 14, 2022)



Dedication Ceremony by the Lincoln City Parks & Recreation (LCP&R) for the Naming of the city-owned plaza, The Ed Johann Veterans Plaza, located at N.W. 18th St and Hwy 101,

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MICK MCLEAN In 2021, the VICE-COMMANDER A merican American Legion Post 97 Legion Lincoln City Post 97 approached Lincoln City Parks & Recreation (LCP&R) to request that the city-owned plaza, located at N.W. 18th St and Hwy 101, be named for former Lincoln City Councilor and resident Ed Johann.

Mr. Johann has a lifetime of service to his country, Lincoln City, North Lincoln County, Portland, and the State of Oregon. At the age of 17, Ed served our country in the U.S. Navy, rescuing survivors of the U.S.S. Arizona, West Virginia, and Oklahoma were struggling in the waters of Pearl Harbor during and after the surprise attack. He never missed a meeting while serving as a Lincoln City City Councilor for 15 years. He was also founder and president of the North Lincoln County Historical Museum and President of Wildwoods and Trails.

American Legion Post 97 felt the plaza name would be a fitting tribute to Mr. Johann's many contributions, as well as recognizing all veterans. LCP&R, Lincoln City Manager Bradley, and Lincoln City City Council readily agreed with Ed's name dedication.

On Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 11 am, LCP&R, in partnership with American Legion Post 97 and Ed's family, will be hosting a public dedic-

ation ceremony for the newly named Ed Johann Veterans Plaza. The plaza is located at N.W. 18th Street and Hwy 101. Special guests include Ed Johann and his family, Oregon State Rep. David Gomberg, Lincoln City Mayor Wahlke, Lincoln City Councilors, and American Legion Post 97. The public is invited to attend.

Ed Johann, when asked about his plaza recognition, states, "I am over-whelmed and very honored to receive this recognition from the people of Lincoln City, the Lincoln City Parks and Recreation department and the American Legion."

Ed's granddaughter, Rachel Howard, heartedly agrees, saying, "Ed's dedication to a lifetime of helping others and saving lives has made him a true role model. Seeing the Ed Johann Veterans Plaza come to fruition during his lifetime is very much appreciated and could not have happened without the inspiration and input of a great group of Lincoln City folks."

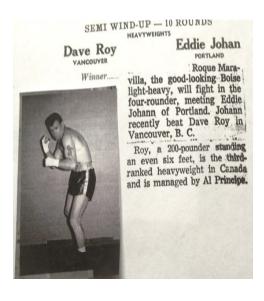
As one of the originators of the plaza name request, American Legion Post 97 Vice Commander Mick McLean states, "This s an extraordinary moment for an extraordinary man, who served both family, community, and his country 'above and beyond the call of duty. It was only fitting that the City of Lincoln City, American Legion Post 97, and his family team up for this recognition. Ed values team-

work!"

Immediately following the ceremony, a reception will be held at the Lincoln City Community Center, located at 2150 NE Oar Place. Light refreshments will be served, and there will be an open microphone available for anyone who wishes to speak in honor of Mr. Johann. Masks are required indoors.

For more information, visit <u>www.</u> <u>lincolncity.org/departments/parks-recreation</u> or visit the LCP&R FB page.

When 17-years-old Ed reported for duty, he quickly noticed some guys going to the head of the chow line. When he learned they were boxers, he joined them. He was a traveling boxer and wrestler between discharge and going with Portland Fire Dept for 27 years.



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Mark Ayers 541-816-2665

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Legionnaire Benefits

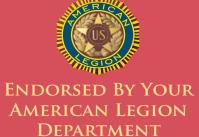
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- Hospital HELP Plan Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.*
- Cancer Care Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*
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Questions? Please contact Stacey Gettmann at (503) 407-3393



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